



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

This book is quite unique for a text-book on biology ; it has not a single figure. The student is called upon from the instructions to see first for himself what there is to be observed, then to make his own drawings, a process which will surely and clearly show him, or his teacher, what he has omitted. The student has no possible chance, in giving an account of what he has done, to repeat anything by rote, for should he follow the usual practice of reciting the very words of the description, he can hardly hope to give an intelligent reply to the questions of his teacher, if the latter is properly fitted to guide him in his laboratory work. The amount of solid information to be obtained by faithfully following the instructions given for the study of the frog shows the masterly hand which has prepared the questions.

The total absence of discussion of any sort is as remarkable a feature in this volume as the omission of all figures.

WHITE'S NATURAL HISTORY OF SELBORNE.¹ — Reading again this delightful record of quiet, shrewd observations of the habits of birds and crickets, trees and plants, sticklebacks and hedgehogs, — in fact, the common things of the wayside and hedgerow, — by an English country curate, we have renewed the delights of our boyhood, when White's Selborne, Sandford and Merton, and the Swiss Family Robinson were the standard books. But what a contrast this gorgeous edition to the little buff paper-covered reprint in Harper's Family Library !

To the letters of White to Thomas Pennant, Esq., whose name is so indelibly connected with American zoölogy, and to the "Honourable Daines Barrington," are added some hitherto unpublished, a memoir of the author, and over a hundred pages filled with a strange medley of notes by Frank Buckland, the editor of the volume, illustrated by cuts of man-traps, a baby hedgehog, a mummied monkey, and other objects, as a rule more grotesque than useful, while Lord Selborne contributes some notes to the Antiquities.

The illustrations by Delamotte are exquisite and abundant, and the work is published in a style of elegance and luxury that will, we feel sure, lead many a country gentleman in America as well as England to give it a conspicuous place on his drawing-room table.

ANDERSON'S NORSE MYTHOLOGY.² — So much has been said in praise of this book by scholars that we can add nothing by way of commendation or criticism that will be of any importance. But aside from its literary merits, and the interest that so fresh, enthusiastic, and apparently

¹ *Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne.* By GILBERT WHITE. With Notes by FRANK BUCKLAND, a Chapter on Antiquities by LORD SELBORNE, and new Letters. Illustrated by P. H. DELAMOTTE. London: Macmillan & Co. 1875. 8vo, pp. 591. \$12.00.

² *Norse Mythology; or, The Religion of our Forefathers.* Containing all the Myths of the Eddas, systematized and interpreted. With an Introduction, Vocabulary, and Index. By R. B. ANDERSON. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co.; London: Trübner & Co. 1875. 12mo, pp. 473. \$2.50.

reliable a study of Norse mythology possesses, the book, it seems to us, will prove of lasting value to the student of comparative mythology. If the Norsemen originally came from Asia, we have in this recent folk lore a descendant of a fossil mythology, and a means of comparison with the mythology of our American aborigines. When the time comes for a comparative study of our Indian traditions and legends, we may be able to discover some connection with the archaic myths of the Indians of the Old World which will throw some light on the origin of human life on our continent.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS. — A Romance of Perfume Lands, or the Search for Capt. Jacob Cole. With Interesting Facts about Perfumes and Articles used in the Toilet. By F. S. Clifford. Boston: Clifford. 1875. 12mo, pp. 295.

On the Superficial Geology of the Central Region of North America. By G. M. Dawson. (From the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society, London, November, 1875.) 8vo, pp. 603-623.

La Maturation de l'Œuf, la Fécondation, et les premières Phases du Développement embryonnaire des Mammifères, d'après des Recherches faites chez le Lapin. Communication préliminaire. Par Édouard Van Beneden. Bruxelles. 1875. 8vo, pp. 53.

The Present Condition of the Earth's Interior. By Geo. F. Kittredge. Buffalo. 1876. 8vo, pp. 16.

First Annual Report of the Chicago Botanical Garden, December 1, 1875. Chicago. 1876. 8vo, pp. 4.

GENERAL NOTES.

BOTANY.¹

THE PLANTAIN INDIGENOUS IN SOUTHERN COLORADO. — While with Holmes's division of Hayden's survey last summer, in Southwestern Colorado, I found the common dooryard plantain under such circumstances as to render it probable that it is indigenous there. With the exception of a few plants growing in a grass-plot where it was no doubt sown with eastern grass seed, I have never met with it in Eastern Colorado. Near the corner of the four Territories, on the sand-bars of the Rio Dolores and Rio de los Mancos, a part of Colorado inhabited only by Navajoes and Utes, it is quite common. This almost unknown region has rarely been visited by the white man, and the plant could not have been introduced by him. — T. S. BRANDEGEE.

VITALITY OF SEEDS. — Professor Ernst, of Caracas, contributes the following facts to this vexed subject. The Plaza Bolivar in Caracas was formerly a market-place, and until the year 1867 formed a square plain inclined from north to south. When the government decided to remove the market and use the grounds as a park, the place was leveled by digging away about six feet of the soil at the northern end. Of course a fresh surface was thus exposed to the air. A large number of rubbish

¹ Conducted by PROF. G. L. GOODALE.